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Page: 1
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PAGE 01 STATE 192003 190150Z
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PAGE 02 STATE 192003 190150Z
XMT AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MALABO
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI

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INFORM CONSULS ALSO FOR USEC/USOECN

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: OPRC
SUBJECT: DAILY PRESS BRIEFING - MONDAY JULY 18, 1994

THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WERE COVERED IN TODAY'S BRIEFING:

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES L. DARIS
DATE/CASE ID: 21 FEB 2002 199500644

UNCLASSIFIED

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Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1994STATE192003

Page: 2
Channel: n/a

ANNOUNCEMENT

PRESIDENT AUTHORIZES NEW REFUGEE RELIEF FUNDS FOR
RWANDA/BURUNDI1-2

RWANDA

US HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE1-3
SITUATION UPDATE4-6
CLOSING OF US EMBASSY/RWANDAN EMBASSY IN US5

CUBA

REPORT OF CUBANS KILLED BY GUNBOATS6-10

ARGENTINA

TERRORIST BOMBING6-7,9

HAITI

BOATPEOPLE INTERDICTIONS/PROCESSING/REPATRIATION
7-8,10-11

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 192003 190150Z
US PUBLIC INFORMATION BROADCASTS/RADIO DEMOCRACY8-9
US-ARISTIDE AGREEMENT ON MESSAGES8-9
TRANSITION GOVERNMENT/FEACEKEEPING FORCE9-12

BOSNIA

STATUS OF PEACE PROFOSAL12

NORTH KOREA

POSTPONEMENT OF KIM IL-SUNG FUNERAL12-13

BEGIN TEXT:

PAGE 1

MR. JOHNSON: GOOD AFTERNOON. SORRY TO KEEP YOU
WAITING FOR A FEW MOMENTS. BEFORE I START TAKING YOUR
QUESTIONS, I HAVE A STATEMENT I'D LIKE TO READ.

THE PRESIDENT AUTHORIZED ON JULY 17 THE USE OF UP TO
\$19 MILLION FROM THE UNITED STATES EMERGENCY REFUGEE AND
MIGRATION ASSISTANCE FUND TO MEET THE UNEXPECTED AND
URGENT NEEDS OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES, AND CONFLICT
VICTIMS FROM RWANDA AND BURUNDI.

THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES WHO HAVE FLED THE CONFLICT IN
RWANDA TO THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES OF TANZANIA, ZAIRE,
UGANDA AND BURUNDI HAS NOW REACHED OVER TWO MILLION.

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1994STATE192003

Page: 3
Channel: n/a

THE FLOW OF ALMOST A MILLION PEOPLE INTO THE GOMA AREA OF ZAIRE OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS IS UNPRECEDENTED. MOREOVER, THERE ARE AS MANY AS THREE MILLION DISPLACED PERSONS INSIDE RWANDA.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 192003 190150Z

THE NEEDS ARE ENORMOUS AND INTERNATIONAL RELIEF AGENCIES ARE OVERWHELMED. THE CONTINUED OUTFLOWS THREATENS THE STABILITY OF THE REGION.

THIS FUNDING REAFFIRMS OUR COMMITMENT TO ASSIST THE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORT CAUSED BY THE RWANDA CRISES. IT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES WHICH IS COORDINATING BASIC ASSISTANCE TO RWANDAN AND BURUNDI REFUGEES THROUGHOUT THE REGION AND TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING CRITICAL RELIEF IN RWANDA, BURUNDI, TANZANIA, UGANDA, AND ZAIRE.

THIS NEW FUNDING IS IN ADDITION TO THE \$100 MILLION WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS ALREADY CONTRIBUTED SINCE

APRIL AND TO THE 80 NEW DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AIRLIFT MISSIONS WHICH WILL BEGIN THIS WEEK WITH FLIGHTS INTO GOMA.

THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATOR BRIAN ATWOOD, WHO IS ALSO THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE, VISITED GOMA TODAY TO ASSESS RELIEF EFFORTS AND THE NEED FOR

PAGE 2

ENHANCED ASSISTANCE CAUSED BY THE WAVE OF NEW REFUGEES ACROSS THE BORDER FROM RWANDA INTO ZAIRE.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 192003 190150Z

THAT'S THE ONLY PREPARED STATEMENT I HAVE FOR YOU TODAY. I'LL BE GLAD TO TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS.

Q DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE SIZE OF THE U S. AIRLIFT CAPACITY IS GOING TO BE?

MR. JOHNSON: I KNOW THAT WE ARE PLANNING TO MAKE 80

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 3

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1994STATE192003

Page: 4
Channel: n/a

NEW MISSIONS, BUT I DON'T HAVE A TONNAGE CAPACITY FOR YOU THERE, IF THAT'S THE IMPORT OF YOUR QUESTION.

Q IT IS. AND WHAT WILL THEY BE CARRYING?

MR. JOHNSON: THEY WILL BE CARRYING FOODSTUFFS, MEDICINES, SHELTER -- ITEMS OF THAT NATURE -- FOR DISASTER RELIEF.

Q DAVID, IS THE \$19 MILLION -- IS THAT ANY OF THAT GOING TO BE PUT INTO THE AIRLIFTS, OR IS THE AIRLIFT TOTALLY SEPARATE?

MR. JOHNSON: NO. THE \$19 MILLION IS SEPARATE FROM THE AIRLIFT.

Q DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN BE FED WITH THAT \$19 MILLION, AND FOR HOW LONG?

MR. JOHNSON: I DO NOT KNOW. I DON'T HAVE AN ASSESSMENT OF HOW THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS MIGHT PUT THAT AMOUNT TO BEST USE. I THINK THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO GIVE AN ASSESSMENT OF THAT. WE COULDN'T PROVIDE
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 192003 190150Z
IT ON THEIR BEHALF BECAUSE WE WILL BE PROVIDING THE FUNDS TO THEM AND THEY, IN TURN, WILL BE MAKING THE BEST RELIEF EFFORTS THEY POSSIBLY CAN WITH IT.

Q IS THIS BEING COORDINATING WITH ANY OTHER COUNTRIES?

MR. JOHNSON: WE'RE WORKING WITH ALL THE COUNTRIES IN THE AREA, BUT I CAN'T SAY SPECIFICALLY THAT THIS PARTICULAR DISBURSEMENT HAS BEEN COORDINATED IN SOME CONCRETE WAY WITH OTHERS NO.

Q WHAT HAS THE U.S. DONE UP TO THIS POINT. YOU MENTIONED, I THINK, \$100 MILLION SINCE APRIL?

MR. JOHNSON: YES. YOU WANT A BREAKOUT OF THAT?

Q A BREAKOUT, AND HAVE THERE BEEN DOD FLIGHTS? I GUESS THERE WERE THE APCs.

PAGE 3

MR. JOHNSON: SINCE APRIL 1994 THE UNITED STATES

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1994STATE192003

Page: 5
Channel: n/a

GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED OVER \$100 MILLION IN HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE RELIEF EFFORTS FOR THE RWANDA CRISIS. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IS GOING TO UNDERTAKE THIS OTHER 80 AIRLIFT MISSIONS. THEY'VE ALREADY CARRIED OUT OVER 100 AIRLIFTS OF RELIEF SUPPLIES SINCE THE START OF THE CRISIS.

AIRLIFT SUPPORT, TO DATE IS VALUED AT NEARLY \$7
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 192003 190150Z
MILLION. THE DEPARTMENT CONTRIBUTED ABOUT \$15.6 MILLION TO UNHCR, THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE RED CROSS, AND THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THEIR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR THE EARLIER WAVES OF REFUGEES.

USAID'S OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE HAS MADE AVAILABLE \$5.8 MILLION TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS FOR RELIEF OPERATIONS IN RWANDA AND ANOTHER \$3.9 MILLION TO NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WORKING INSIDE RWANDA

FOOD FOR PEACE HAS APPROVED CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALMOST \$66 MILLION IN FOOD COMMODITIES FOR THE RWANDA-BURUNDI REGIONAL EMERGENCY SINCE APRIL. THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAS PROVIDED \$4 MILLION WORTH OF FOOD COMMODITIES FOR THE RWANDA-BURUNDI EMERGENCY SINCE APRIL.

THE APCS YOU REFERRED TO HAVE ALREADY BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE U.N., BUT I DO NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THEY ARE LOCATED AT THIS POINT.

Q DO YOU HAVE A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SITUATION IN GOMA FROM BRIAN ATWOOD OR SOMEBODY ELSE?

MR. JOHNSON: I DO NOT KNOW IF THERE'S BEEN A DIRECT REPORT FROM ATWOOD SINCE HE LEFT GOMA EARLIER TODAY.

OUR INFORMATION IS ABOUT 800,000 TO 1 MILLION RWANDAN REFUGEES ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE CROSSED INTO ZAIRE AND ARE NOW IN THE GOMA AREA.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 192003 190150Z

ACCORDING TO THE U.N. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, THEY ARE CONTINUING TO ENTER ZAIRE AT A RATE OF 10,000 TO 15,000 PER HOUR.

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 5

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1994STATE192003

Page: 6
Channel: n/a

AS I MENTIONED, ATWOOD IS IN THE AREA TODAY TO LOOK AT THE ASSISTANCE NEEDS.

Q AND THE MONEY GOES DIRECTLY TO THE REFUGEE ORGANIZATIONS? IT'S NOT RUN THROUGH THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT?

MR. JOHNSON: NO. IT'S TO THE NGOS THAT I MENTIONED IN THE STATEMENT.

PAGE 4

Q DAVID, HOW IS THIS FIGURE OF 80 ARRIVED AT FOR THE AIRLIFTS?

MR. JOHNSON: I DON'T KNOW HOW THE ASSESSMENT CAME UP TO THAT NUMBER.

Q WHAT IS THE LOGISTICAL SITUATION IN TERMS OF GETTING THIS AID DISTRIBUTED? HOW BAD IS IT?

MR. JOHNSON: IT'S CLEARLY A HUMANITARIAN DISASTER OF ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED PROPORTIONS. IT'S GOING TO BE A VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION. I CAN'T CITE FOR YOU SPECIFICS AS TO HOW THAT'S GOING TO BE WORKED OUT I'M AFRAID.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 192003 190150Z

Q A RELEASE SAID CUBANS WERE KILLED BY CUBAN VESSELS WHEN THEY TRIED TO LEAVE CUBA.

MR. JOHNSON: COULD I FIND OUT IF WE'VE GOT ANYMORE QUESTIONS ON RWANDA BEFORE WE MOVE TO ANOTHER AREA.

Q THE POLITICAL SITUATION IS THERE A CEASE-FIRE? WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TERMS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT?

MR. JOHNSON: U.N. SOURCES REPORT THAT THE RPF HAS TAKEN GISENYI. ACCORDING TO OTHER PRESS REPORTS, A CEASE-FIRE MAY HAVE ALREADY BEEN DECLARED.

NO CLASH BETWEEN FRENCH FORCES AND THE RPF HAS BEEN REPORTED SINCE YESTERDAY'S CONFRONTATION WHICH THE U.N. HAS DESCRIBED AS MINOR.

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 6

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1994STATE192003

Page: 7
Channel: n/a

Q YOU SAID "HUMANITARIAN DISASTER OF AMOST UNPRECEDENTED PROPORTIONS." COULD YOU FLESH THAT OUT? I KNOW THAT THE NUMBERS OF DISPLACED ARE HUGE, BUT DO YOU HAVE A LOT OF DEATHS AS WELL?

MR. JOHNSON: I DON'T HAVE ANY STATISTICS. I'VE HEARD THE SAME REPORTS THAT YOU HAVE THIS MORNING ABOUT ALL TYPES OF INCIDENTS THAT HAVE HAPPENED IN THE AREA. BUT, NO, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BEYOND THE NUMBER OF DISPLACED WITHIN AND THOSE I'VE CITED FOR THE REFUGEE CAMPS IN ZAIRE AND IN TANZANIA.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 10 STATE 192003 190150Z

Q THIS SITUATION WHICH HAS NOW BEEN GOING FOR A NUMBER OF MONTHS IS REALLY MUCH WORSE THAN SOMALIA. WHY HASN'T THE UNITED STATES DONE MORE?

MR. JOHNSON: I THINK THE RESPONSE THAT YOU SEE TODAY IS THE TYPE OF RESPONSE THAT WE SHOULD BE DOING TO THIS TYPE OF PROBLEM. IT'S A HUMANITARIAN DISASTER AND WE ARE APPROACHING IT FROM THAT POINT OF VIEW.

PAGE 5

WE HAVE ALSO, AS YOU WILL RECALL, WORKED CLOSELY WITH OTHERS IN THE U.N. AND SUPPORTED THE FRENCH EFFORT TO TRY TO LIMIT THE ACTS OF GENOCIDE WHICH WERE TAKING PLACE THERE.

Q THE SECRETARY SPOKE THE OTHER DAY ABOUT U S. READINESS TO START WORKING TOWARDS A COALITION GOVERNMENT. WHAT HOPES DO WE HAVE IN THAT AREA IN TERMS OF BEING ABLE TO TURN THAT SITUATION AROUND?

MR. JOHNSON: I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU BEYOND WHAT HE SAID AT THAT POINT. I DON'T HAVE AN ASSESSMENT TODAY AS TO WHERE WE STAND.

Q DAVID, DO YOU ASSIGN ANY BLAME FOR WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY WITH THE ABSOLUTE MAYHEM CLOSE TO THE BORDER AND THE RESULTING TRAMPLING OF REFUGEES?

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 11 STATE 192003 190150Z
MR. JOHNSON: I DON'T THINK WE HAVE AN ASSESSMENT

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 7

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1994STATE192003

Page: 8
Channel: n/a

EXACTLY WHERE THE ROUNDS CAME FROM. I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO ASSIGN BLAME.

Q WHAT'S THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE RWANDAN EMBASSY MISSION HERE IN WASHINGTON D.C.? I KNOW CHRISTOPHER HAD TALKED ABOUT DE-RECOGNIZING IT. HAS THAT GONE THROUGH?

MR. JOHNSON: YES. I BELIEVE THE WHITE HOUSE PUT OUT A STATEMENT ON THAT ON FRIDAY, ANNOUNCING THAT THE MISSION HAD BEEN CLOSED.

JUST TO FLESH THAT OUT A LITTLE BIT FOR YOU, I CAN TELL YOU THAT THERE WERE THREE DIPLOMATS AND SIX SUPPORT PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE RWANDAN EMBASSY. THE AMBASSADOR IS REQUIRED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY NOT LATER THAN JULY 22. THAT'S THE DATE UPON WHICH THE EMBASSY WILL CEASE DIPLOMATIC OPERATIONS.

REMAINING PERSONNEL AND THE 18 DEPENDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO DEPART BY AUGUST 14. ONE INDIVIDUAL COULD BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN LONGER IF NECESSARY TO DEAL WITH ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE CLOSING OF THE MISSION. WE BELIEVE THAT TIMETABLE SETS FORTH SUFFICIENT TIME TO WIND DOWN AFFAIRS AND DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY EXTENSIONS.

ARE WE READY TO MOVE ON FROM RWANDA?

Q NO, ONE MORE. I WASN'T GOING TO ASK THIS BUT
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 12 STATE 192003 190150Z
NOBODY ELSE DID. DAVID, HAS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT RECEIVED INFORMATION, OR HAS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE REBEL GOVERNMENT OR RECEIVED INFORMATION VIA THE UNITED NATIONS ON EFFORTS ON THE PART OF THE REBEL

PAGE 6

GOVERNMENT TO HELP ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEMS THAT ARE DRIVING SO MANY PEOPLE OVER THE BORDERS?

AND, SECONDLY, YOU'VE MENTIONED SECURITY OF THE REGION BEING THREATENED. COULD YOU EXPAND UPON THAT?

MR. JOHNSON: NOT BEYOND, I THINK, WHAT'S OBVIOUS, WITH ALL OF THE COUNTRIES BEING OVERRUN WITH REFUGEES.

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 8

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1994STATE192003

Page: 9
Channel: n/a

I'M NOT SURE ABOUT CONTACTS, AND I DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE ON THAT. I'LL SEE IF I CAN FIND OUT SOMETHING ABOUT CONTACTS WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN MADE AND TRY TO FLESH THAT OUT A BIT FOR YOU.

CUBA.

Q DAVID, AT LEAST 30 CUBANS DIED -- WERE KILLED BY CUBAN VESSELS. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT?

MR. JOHNSON: I PRESUME YOU REFER TO AN AP REPORT WHICH WAS IN THE --

Q (HANDS REPORT TO MR. JOHNSON) LET ME GIVE YOU THIS.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 13 STATE 192003 190150Z

MR. JOHNSON: -- THANK YOU -- PUBLISHED LAST FRIDAY. WE'VE ATTEMPTED TO GET SOME INFORMATION ON THE INCIDENT WHICH WAS ALLEGED TO HAVE OCCURRED IN THAT REPORT, AND I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU WITH WHICH I CAN FLESH THAT OUT.

AS YOU KNOW, GETTING INFORMATION OUT OF CUBA IS NOT AN EASY TASK. I WOULD SAY THAT IF THIS DID IN FACT OCCUR, IT'S ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE TYPE OF LENGTHS TO WHICH PEOPLE ARE PUSHED IN THAT SOCIETY AND ANOTHER REASON FOR THE NEED FOR REFORM.

Q AS YOU KNOW, THIS HAPPENED BEFORE SEVERAL TIMES, THIS SORT OF INCIDENT. WILL THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY COMMENT OR RENOUNCE THIS PRACTICE?

MR. JOHNSON: IF WE ARE IN A POSITION TO CONFIRM THE REPORT, WE CERTAINLY WILL HAVE A STATEMENT TO MAKE

Q BUENOS AIRES. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE SOURCE OF THE BOMBING TODAY? ANY COMMENT ON IT?

MR. JOHNSON: I'M GOING TO REFER YOU TO THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS THAT HE MADE FROM JERUSALEM REGARDING THE INCIDENT WHERE HE SAID, "THE EVENTS IN BUENOS AIRES ARE A REMINDER THAT DESPITE THE GROWING PROSPECTS, THERE ARE STILL THE ENEMIES OF PEACE AROUND THE WORLD, NOT ONLY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE BEST ANTIDOTE TO THAT IS TO BE STRIVING AND WORKING TO REMOVE THE UNDERLYING PROBLEMS THAT HAVE GIVEN RISE TO THESE

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 9

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1994STATE192003

Page: 10
Channel: n/a

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 14 STATE 192003 190150Z
TENSIONS HISTORICALLY."

PAGE 7

OUR INFORMATION CURRENTLY ABOUT THE EXTENT OF DAMAGE AND THE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES REMAINS INCOMPLETE BUT IT APPEARS THERE WAS A SUBSTANTIAL LOSS OF LIFE. AT THIS TIME WE'RE NOT AWARE OF ANY AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO HAVE BEEN INJURED OR KILLED IN THE INCIDENT.

Q THE PERPETRATORS -- DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THAT?

MR. JOHNSON: WE'VE SEEN A CLAIM BY A PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN GROUP CALLED ISLAMIC COMMAND, BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BEYOND THAT CLAIM.

Q CENTRAL EUROPE, PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE.

MR. JOHNSON: SURE.

Q IN THE SENATE LAST WEEK, THEY VOTED ON AN AMENDMENT TO THE ANNUAL FOREIGN OPERATIONS BILL QUALIFYING HUNGARY AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC FOR EXCESS MILITARY EQUIPMENT. SLOVAKIA, AS A MEMBER OF THE VISEGRAD COUNTRIES HAS BEEN OMITTED. MY QUESTIONS ARE. WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, IF ANY, FOR NOT INCLUDING SLOVAKIA AS A MEMBER OF VISEGRAD FOUR, AND WHAT'S YOUR VIEW OF THE AMENDMENT AS SUCH, BECAUSE IT'S CLEARLY NOT IN LINE WITH PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 15 STATE 192003 190150Z

MR. JOHNSON: SINCE THAT IS AN EVENT THAT TOOK PLACE SEVERAL DAYS GO, I'M NOT IN A POSITION AT THIS POINT TO COMMENT ON IT, BUT I'LL LOOK INTO IT AND GIVE YOU A CALL BACK.

Q DO YOU HAVE ANY NEW FIGURES ON HAITI BOAT PEOPLE?

MR. JOHNSON: YES, I DO. ON FRIDAY THE 15TH, THE COAST GUARD PICKED UP 149 HAITIANS IN FIVE BOATS. THERE

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 10

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1994STATE192003

Page: 11
Channel: n/a

WERE NO INTERDICTIONS ON SATURDAY OR SUNDAY, AND THUS FAR TODAY THERE HAVE BEEN NONE EITHER. THAT BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HAITIANS PICKED UP SINCE THE PROCESSING FACILITY ON THE COMFORT BEGAN OPERATIONS ON JUNE 15 TO APPROXIMATELY 20,580.

WHILE THE NUMBERS HAVE BEEN MUCH LOWER FOR SOME TIME NOW, WE'RE NOT IN A POSITION TO SPECULATE ON WHETHER THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE. IT COULD BE THAT THE MESSAGE IS TAKING HOLD IN HAITI: THAT THE OPTIONS FOR HAITIANS WHO LEAVE BY BOAT ARE EITHER TEMPORARY PROTECTION IN A SAFE HAVEN OR VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION AND NOT REFUGEE STATUS IN THE U.S., BUT IT'S ENTIRELY UNCLEAR.

Q DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THE WEATHER WAS OVER THE WEEKEND?

PAGE 8

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 16 STATE 192003 190150Z

MR. JOHNSON: I'VE HEARD CONFLICTING REPORTS ABOUT THAT. I'M NOT A METEOROLOGIST, BUT ONE PERSON TOLD ME THERE WERE WHITE CAPS AND ANOTHER TOLD ME THE WEATHER WAS QUITE CALM, SO I DON'T HAVE ANY INDEPENDENT INFORMATION.

Q DAVID, RADIO DEMOCRACY GOT STARTED, I GUESS, ON FRIDAY, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS BROADCASTING USING OTHER PLANES -- MESSAGES TO DISCOURAGE PEOPLE FROM LEAVING HAITI. IN OTHER WORDS, THAT IS NOT PART OF RADIO DEMOCRACY BUT IS BEING DONE USING OTHER DEFENSE DEPARTMENT MEANS. IS THAT TRUE, OR IS IT STRICTLY COMMERCIAL?

MR. JOHNSON: THE UNITED STATES HAS HAD A LONGER RUNNING PROGRAM OF WHAT WE CALL PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION TO LET THE PEOPLE OF HAITI KNOW ABOUT THE SITUATION FOR PEOPLE WHO INTEND TO LEAVE BY BOAT. WE'VE USED. I BELIEVE, BOTH COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS AS WELL AS OTHER USG ASSETS. THAT IS SEPARATE FROM RADIO DEMOCRACY WHICH ONLY BEGAN OPERATION ON FRIDAY, AND THE PROGRAM YOU DESCRIBED HAS BEEN ONGOING FOR SOME TIME.

Q DAVID, DO YOU KNOW WHETHER BROADCASTS ARE GETTING THROUGH -- RADIO DEMOCRACY'S BROADCASTS?

MR. JOHNSON: THEY HAVE BEEN MONITORED THERE AND

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 11

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1994STATE192003

Page: 12
Channel: n/a

SOME OF YOUR COLLEAGUES HAVE MADE REPORTS ON THEM, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY DEMOGRAPHICS FOR YOU TO TELL YOU ON HOW MANY PEOPLE AND THAT SORT THAT HAVE BEEN LISTENED TO.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 17 STATE 192003 190150Z

Q THERE WERE REPORTS THAT ON THE FIRST DAY, FRIDAY, THAT THE RECEPTION WAS PRETTY SPOTTY; THAT THERE WERE PROBLEMS WITH IT, AND THAT THEY WERE GOING TO TRY TO IMPROVE THAT. DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THAT --

MR. JOHNSON: I DON'T. THOSE SORTS OF TECHNICAL QUESTIONS I THINK I'M GOING TO ASK THAT YOU TO CONTACT DOD WHO'S RUNNING THE TECHNICAL SIDE OF THE OPERATION.

Q THE U.S. HAS A LOOK AT WHAT PRESIDENT ARISTIDE SAYS IN THESE BROADCASTS, RIGHT, BEFOREHAND?

MR. JOHNSON. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IS BROADCASTING THEM SO CERTAINLY, YES, WE WOULD.

Q ALL RIGHT. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THAT?

MR. JOHNSON: WE'VE COME TO MUTUAL AGREEMENT OVER HOW WE WOULD REVIEW BOTH THE BROADCASTS THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD EVENTUALLY USE ON RADIO DEMOCRACY AND THE ONES THAT ARE BEING USED NOW. IT'S A JOINT ACTIVITY, AND IT'S

PAGE 9

PERFECTLY LOGICAL THAT BOTH OF US WOULD TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT EACH OTHER WERE SAYING.

Q THIS IS NOT A PRESS FREEDOM ISSUE?

MR. JOHNSON: NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE. OUR GOVERNMENT
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 18 STATE 192003 190150Z
BROADCASTS, HELPING ANOTHER GOVERNMENT.

Q HAS ANYTHING THAT HE HAS BROADCAST BEEN SUBSTANTIVELY CHANGED?

MR. JOHNSON I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY CHANGES MADE AT ALL. I THINK WE REVIEWED FOR YOU ON FRIDAY, OR WERE IN A POSITION TO, OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE BROADCAST AND WE

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 12

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1994STATE192003

Page: 13
Channel: n/a

CHARACTERIZED IT AS A MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION. THAT'S
WHERE WE'RE STAYING.

Q SPEAKING OF RADIO STATIONS BUT GETTING BACK TO
RWANDA, EARLY ON IN THAT CRISIS, I REMEMBER THERE WAS
ACTIVE CONSIDERATION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
GOING AND TAKING OUT A RADIO STATION THAT WAS BASICALLY
FOMENTING GENOCIDE.

NOW THIS RADIO STATION SEEMS TO BE DOING THE SAME
THING AND IS ONE OF THE FACTORS IN THIS HORRENDOUS
REFUGEE FLOW, ABOVE AND BEYOND THE OBVIOUS. IS THERE
ANY CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO DOING SOMETHING ABOUT
THAT NOW?

MR. JOHNSON: I'M NOT AWARE OF THE ALLEGATIONS YOU
FIRST MADE THAT THERE WAS SOME CONSIDERATION GIVEN AT
SOME POINT IN THE PAST, BUT I'LL LOOK INTO THE QUESTION
YOU RAISE AND SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT.

HOWARD.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 19 STATE 192003 190150Z
Q AS I RECALL, WHEN THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN
ARGENTINA WAS BOMBED THE U.S. OFFERED HELP IN
INVESTIGATING THAT. ARE WE OFFERING ANY SUCH HELP THIS
TIME AROUND?

MR. JOHNSON: I THINK THAT WHERE WE ARE RIGHT NOW IN
THIS TRAGEDY IS SUCH THAT WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN TO THAT
POINT YET, BUT I WOULDN'T EXCLUDE IT.

Q BACK ON HAITI --

MR. JOHNSON: IF YOU WISH.

Q DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON BOUTROS
BOUTROS-GHALI'S COMMENTS OF LAST FRIDAY PARTICULARLY
THOSE SUGGESTING THAT HE WOULD PREFER A NON-U.N. COMBAT
FORCE, IF IT CAME TO THAT.

PAGE 10

MR. JOHNSON: OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE U.N.
SECRETARY GENERAL SUPPORTS THE FORMATION OF AN
INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCE FOR HAITI THAT IN ITS

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 13

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1994STATE192003

Page: 14
Channel: n/a

TOTALITY IS THE SIZE AND COMPOSITION THAT WE HAVE
PROPOSED. HE ALSO SHARES WITH US THE SENSE OF URGENCY

ABOUT THE NEED FOR EARLY AND EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL
ACTION TO RESTORE THE LEGITIMATE AUTHORITIES IN HAITI.

HE'S SUGGESTED AS ONE OPTION A TWO-PHASE
INTERNATIONAL APPROACH TO RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 20 STATE 192003 190150Z
HAITI. PHASE ONE COULD BE A U.N.-SANCTIONED COALITION
FORCE WITH A MANDATE TO ESTABLISH A SECURE AND STABLE
ENVIRONMENT.

PHASE TWO WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN WITH A U.N.
PEACEKEEPING FORCE WITH A MANDATE TO SUPPORT
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOVERNORS ISLAND AGREEMENT WE
BELIEVE THIS TWO-PHASED APPROACH HAS MERIT AND IS WORTH
ACTIVE CONSIDERATION.

WE BELIEVE THAT AN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING EFFORT
WITH BROAD MULTINATIONAL PARTICIPATION WILL BE NECESSARY
TO HELP BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL STABLE TRANSITION TO
DEMOCRACY IN HAITI. WE WILL BE STUDYING THE SECRETARY
GENERAL'S REPORT AND WILL CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY AND
COOPERATIVELY WITH HIM AND OTHER U.N. MEMBER NATIONS TO
BRING ABOUT AN AGREED APPROACH TO THE TASK.

Q IS THIS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE EVER SAID THAT
YOU FAVOR A U.N.-SANCTIONED FORCE FOR HAITI?

MR. JOHNSON: I'M NOT SURE.

Q BACK TO CUBA. CASTRO LIKES TO BLAME THE UNITED
STATES FOR THIS INCIDENT WHEN CUBANS TRIED TO LEAVE THE
ISLAND. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT?

MR. JOHNSON: ONLY THAT THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS
THE RIGHT OF ANYONE TO DEPART HIS COUNTRY AND TO RETURN'
AND IT'S GUARANTEED BY THE U.N. CONVENTION ON HUMAN
RIGHTS, AND THAT'S SOMETHING WE STAND BEHIND. SO, NO
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 21 STATE 192003 190150Z
WE DO NOT ACCEPT THAT AS AN A LLEGATION THAT WE ARE
FOMENTING ANY TYPE OF ACTIVITY.

Q HAITI: OTHER FIGURES. DO YOU HAVE ANY ON

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 14

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1994STATE192003

Page: 15
Channel: n/a

REFATRIATIONS SINCE FRIDAY AND TOTAL AT GUANTANAMO AND SO FORTH?

MR. JOHNSON: 2,765 OF THE APPROXIMATELY 11,000 INTERVIEWED HAVE OPTED FOR VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION, WHILE 8,203 HAVE ASKED FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION IN A SAFEHAVEN. OF THOSE WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO RETURN ALL BUT NINE HAVE ALREADY BEEN REPATRIATED OR ARE ENROUTE TO PORT-AU-PRINCE. APPROXIMATELY 16,500 ARE PRESENTLY AT

GUANTANAMO, OF WHICH

PAGE 11

7,750 ARE AWAITING PROCESSING FOR VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OR FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION.

Q HAS ANYBODY ASKED FOR AND NOT RECEIVED TEMPORARY PROTECTION?

MR. JOHNSON: TO DATE, NO ONE HAS BEEN FORCIBLY REPATRIATED FROM GUANTANAMO SINCE THE NEW POLICY WENT INTO EFFECT ON JULY 7. UNDER THIS POLICY HAITIANS INTERDICTED AT SEA ARE ADVISED THAT THEIR ONLY CHOICES ARE TO RETURN VOLUNTARILY OR TO APPLY FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION. APPLICATIONS ARE REVIEWED TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION. THE STANDARD
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 22 STATE 192003 190150Z
APPLIED IS WHETHER THE APPLICANT IS SEEKING TEMPORARY PROTECTION FOR REASONS LINKED TO PERSONAL SAFETY OR PROTECTION OR FOR REASONS OF PERSONAL CONVENIENCE

IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THERE WILL BE CASES IN WHICH APPLICANTS FOR SAFEHAVEN ARE FOUND TO BE EXCLUDABLE FOR REFUGEE STATUS OR FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION; FOR EXAMPLE, BECAUSE OF SERIOUS CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. SUCH PEOPLE MAY BE RETURNED TO HAITI, BUT TO DATE NO CASE SUCH AS THAT HAS OCCURRED.

Q JUST COMPARING THE NUMBERS ON THE REPATRIATION FIGURES FROM TODAY AND I GUESS THURSDAY IT LOOKS LIKE SINCE THEN ONLY ABOUT TEN PERCENT HAVE OPTED FOR VOLUNTARY REFATRIATION, WHEREAS UNTIL THAT TIME IT HAD BEEN RUNNING AT SOMETHING OVER A THIRD. DO WE HAVE A (INAUDIBLE) HERE?

MR. JOHNSON NO. I THINK YOUR STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 15

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1994STATE192003

Page: 16
Channel: n/a

CAN BE MISLEADING, BECAUSE WHEN THE POLICY AND THE ASSESSMENT OF INDIVIDUALS WAS FIRST UNDERTAKEN, IT BECAME KNOWN THAT PEOPLE WHO HAD NO WISH FOR SAFEHAVEN AND WISHED TO VOLUNTARILY RETURN COULD DO SO WITHOUT ASSESSMENT, AND SO THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A TIME IN THE BEGINNING WHERE THERE WAS A TEMPORARY SURGE BUT I WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOU NOT TRY TO DRAW STATISTICAL CONCLUSIONS BASED ON THE NUMBERS FROM DAY TO DAY UNTIL THERE IS A LONGER-TERM TREND.

Q GETTING BACK TO BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI AND THE U.N., AND SO ON, THAT PHASE ONE SOUNDS LIKE A BIG U N.
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 23 STATE 192003 190150Z

SANCTIONED FORCE THAT WOULD GO IN AND BASICALLY STABILIZE THE SITUATION. IT SOUNDS A LOT LIKE SOMALIA OR WHATEVER. IT SOUNDS LIKE A MUCH MORE MUSCULAR SORT OF ACTION THAN HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN TALKED ABOUT IN THE U.S. PARTICIPATION OF A PEACEKEEPING FORCE FOR HAITI. IS THAT NOT -- IS THAT ASSESSMENT NOT ACCURATE?

MR. JOHNSON: I'D MAKE A COUPLE OF POINTS. FIRST OF ALL THIS IS A REPORT WHICH REMAINS UNDER DISCUSSION THE DETAILS, AND EVEN THE CONCEPTS OF IT, REMAIN TO BE WORKED

PAGE 12

OUT. BUT IT IS DISTINCT FROM THE UNMIH GROUP THE EXPANDED ONE THAT HAS BEEN TALKED ABOUT UP UNTIL THIS TIME.

Q TO BOSNIA?

MR. JOHNSON. YES.

Q THE BOSNIAN SERBS, IN AN ASSOCIATED PRESS STORY IN THE WASHINGTON TIMES THIS MORNING, ARE TALKING TOUGH. THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT NOT ACCEPTING THE PEACE PLAN AND TALKING ABOUT GREATER WAR AND MORE WIDESPREAD WARS AROUND THE BALKANS. COULD YOU REVIEW, DAVID, THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE PEACE -- OF THE ATTEMPTS TO MAKE PEACE IN BOSNIA? OR, INDEED, IS THIS POSTURING ON THE PART OF THE SERBS? THERE'S SOME POSITIVE INDICATIONS
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 24 STATE 192003 190150Z

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 16

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1994STATE192003

Page: 17
Channel: n/a

COMING IN. BY THE WAY, WHAT'S THE DEADLINE FOR THIS?

MR. JOHNSON: I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE YOU A FORMAL ASSESSMENT OF EVERYWHERE WE'VE BEEN AND WHERE WE'RE GOING. BUT I WOULD NOTE THAT BOTH OF THE PARLIAMENTARY BODIES YOU REFERRED TO ARE REPORTEDLY MEETING TODAY. WE'VE NOT YET RECEIVED ANY REPORTS ON VOTES ON THE PEACE PROPOSAL.

I WOULD NOTE THAT THIS IS AN IMPORTANT JUNCTURE. BOTH PARTIES NEED TO GIVE IT EVERY CONSIDERATION AND TO CHOOSE TO THE ROAD TO PEACE. BOTH PARTIES UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES TO REJECTION AND, IF NECESSARY, WE INTEND TO PURSUE THOSE CONSEQUENCES.

THE CONTACT GROUP WILL BE MEETING LATER THIS WEEK AND THAT IS WHEN THEY EXPECT TO RECEIVE A MORE FORMAL RESPONSE FROM THE PARTIES.

Q AND WHAT IS THAT DEADLINE AGAIN?

MR. JOHNSON: IT'S LATER IN THE WEEK. I DON'T HAVE THE NUMBER RIGHT OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD.

Q KOREA: WHAT IS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE -- PERHAPS THIS HAPPENED ON FRIDAY; I WASN'T HERE -- THE ASSESSMENT OF THE POSTPONING OF THE FUNERAL UNTIL TOMORROW?

MR. JOHNSON: NORTH KOREA HAS STATED THAT THE DELAY WAS NECESSARY TO ALLOW MORE PEOPLE TO VISIT THE FUNERAL
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 25 STATE 192003 190150Z
BIER AND TO COMPLETE PREPARATIONS FOR THE FUNERAL. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF ANY OTHER MOTIVATIONS

Q COULD I JUST FOLLOW THAT WITH, THERE IS SOME BAD NEWS ALSO REPORTED IN OUR PAPERS ABOUT THE NORTH KOREANS SAYING SOME VERY UGLY THINGS ABOUT THE SOUTH KOREAN LEADERSHIP. I WAS JUST CURIOUS TO KNOW IF THEY'VE MADE ANY MOVEMENT TO RESET THE DATE OF THE TALKS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH?

PAGE 13

MR. JOHNSON: IN REGARD TO THE FIRST ASSERTION THAT YOU STARTED OUT WITH, I'M NOT REALLY INTERESTED IN COMMENTING ON PRESS REPORTS OF THAT NATURE. BUT I WOULD

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 17

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1994STATE192003

Page: 18
Channel: n/a

TELL YOU THAT AS THE NORTH KOREANS INDICATED BEFORE LEAVING GENEVA, THEY INTEND TO RESUME DIALOGUE WITH THE UNITED STATES AFTER THE OFFICIAL MOURNING PERIOD FOR KIM IL-SUNG HAS ENDED.

SINCE THE NORTH KOREAN ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THE DELAY OF KIM IL-SUNG'S FUNERAL, THEY HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH US TO REASSURE US THAT THIS REMAINS THEIR INTENTION. THEREFORE, WE CAN EXPECT THE NORTH KOREANS TO CONTACT US LATER THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS DATES FOR RESUMING A THIRD ROUND.

Q THERE'S NO NEWS AS TO THE TWO KOREAS TALKING TO EACH OTHER?

MR. JOHNSON: NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 26 STATE 192003 190150Z

Q IS THE UNITED STATES DOING ANY KIND OF

DIPLOMATIC WORK IN ORDER TO TAKE THE FUEL RODS OUT OF THE COUNTRY TO A THIRD COUNTRY? OR WHAT'S THE STATUS OF THE FUEL RODS?

MR. JOHNSON: I KNOW THAT THE INSPECTORS REMAIN THERE AND THEY REMAIN UNDER IAEA SUPERVISION BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU ON THE QUESTION YOU RAISE ABOUT WHAT SORT OF PLANS MIGHT BE FOR THEM.

Q THANK YOU.

MR. JOHNSON: THANK YOU.

SANAA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. TALBOTT

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Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 18

UNCLASSIFIED